

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 07706 311205Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 XMB-02

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /116 W

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O R 311126Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5476

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ELIGIBILITY FOR GSP

REF: STATE 303309

1. COMMATT DEC 30 DISCUSSED GSP ELIGIBILITY WITH PEQUITO, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, STRESSING ARGUMENTS MADE IN PARA 2 REFTEL. HOWEVER, GOP STILL PREFERS TO REDUCE TARIFFS ON ONLY BILATERAL BASIS. PEQUITO AGAIN NOTED THAT MFN REDUCTION WOULD ENTAIL EXTENSIVE STUDY WITHIN GOP BECAUSE OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON PORTUGUESE TRADE PATTERNS AND COULD NOT BE DONE QUICKLY. HE ONCE AGAIN MENTIONED THAT LARGE TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY AGGRAVATED UNDER MFN REDUCTION, NOTING THAT THIS COULD AFFECT U.S. EXPORTS TO PORTUGAL. MENTION OF ISRAEL ELICITED QUESTIONS REGARDING NUMBER, TYPE AND

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PAGE 02 LISBON 07706 311205Z

VALUE OF PRODUCTS ON WHICH ISRAEL REDUCED TARIFF. IN RESPONSE

TO QUERY, COMMERCIAL ATTACHE NOTED THAT BILATERAL REDUCTION, COUPLED WITH SOME OFFICIAL ACTION, SATISFIED LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF TRADE ACT.

2. PEQUITO EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND SOME CONCERN AT MENTION OF NEED FOR OFFICIAL ACTION. HE CHARACTERIZED IT AS "ANOTHER NEW REQUIREMENT" BEING REQUESTED BY USG AND NOTED IT HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED TO GOP COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TYPE OF ACTION COULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY OR WOULD BE SATISFACTORY AND SEEMED TO RULE OUT ANY TYPE OF PRESS RELEASE OR OTHER STATEMENT. COMMATT SUGGESTED THAT INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED; PEQUITO RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD NECESSITATE EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN GOP WHICH ARE IMPOSSIBLE IMMEDIATELY DUE TO ADSENCE OF KEY OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD CAUSE SOME EMBARRASSMENT FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY TO HAVE TO GO BACK TO OTHER AGENCIES FOR APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT IN ORDER QUALIFY. PEQUITO FINALLY ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD ASCERTAIN WHETHER OFFICIAL ACTION ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL; IF SO, WHAT TYPE OF ACTION WOULD BE SATISFACTORY.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR GOP WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE ANY ACTION BY JANUARY 1. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ASAP REGARDING PEQUITO'S QUESTIONS, AND WHETHER ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE WITHIN FIRST TEN DAYS OF JANUARY WOULD BE SATISFACTORY INTERIM MEASURE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DATA REGARDING ISRAELI REDUCTIONS.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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